

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Langley Research Center

Educational Product

Students

Grades 3-5

NP-2003-02-29-LaRC

ADVENTURES

in aeronautics

With
F.A. PLANE!



HEY KIDS!

TAKE A TRIP WITH F.A. PLANE AND FRIENDS TO LEARN ABOUT THE FIRST "A" IN NASA, "AERONAUTICS!"



AERONAUTICS

The science of flight that deals with all types of aircraft.

This storybook about NASA Aeronautics is dedicated to all the future aviation professionals—the youngsters that are in school today. We hope this story will inspire them to learn more about the many aspects of flight and the many types of careers associated with the U.S. aviation industry.

MATCH GAME!



These images are taken from pages in this storybook. When you have finished reading the book, come back to test your knowledge of these types of aircraft. Match the image of the aircraft with its name in the storybook. The names of the planes are listed below, choose the number of the image that fits its name!

- ☐ A Personal Air Vehicle
- ☐ B Joint Strike Fighter
- ☐ C Hypersonic X-43 Plane
- ☐ D Blended Wing Body
- ☐ E X-1 Supersonic Plane
- ☐ F Mars Plane

Acknowledgements

Original idea & text for a museum storybook exhibit

Natalie S. Friend
Planners Collaborative Inc.

Illustrations
& layout

Wade A. Mickley
NCI Information Systems

IT'S A SUNNY DAY IN HAMPTON, VIRGINIA.

IT'S MY GRANDMOTHER'S BIRTHDAY. SHE LIVES NEAR HONOLULU...

...SO WE'RE LEAVING TOMORROW.

WOW, ALL THE WAY TO HAWAII! WHAT A TRIP!

HI ALEX. I WAS JUST TELLING KIM ABOUT OUR VACATION TO HAWAII.

DUDE, YOU DON'T LOOK HAPPY ABOUT IT.

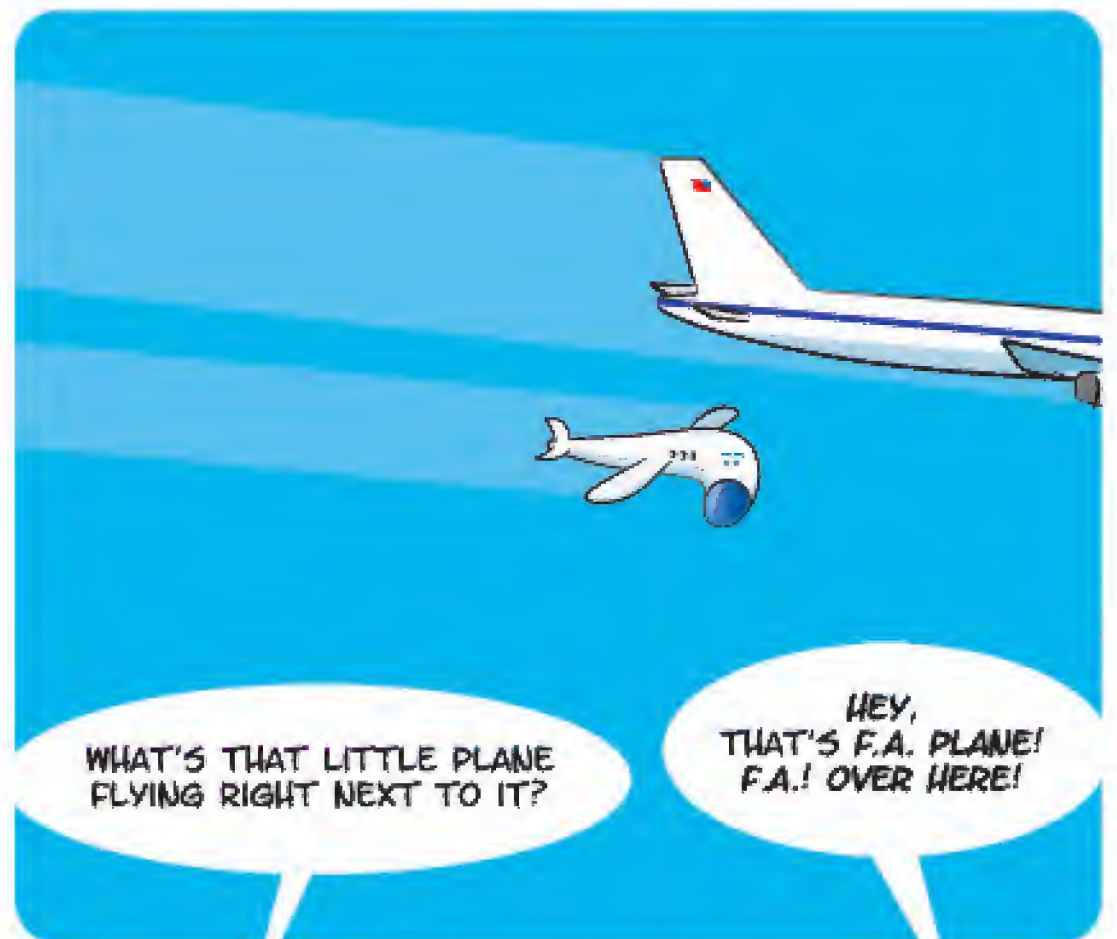
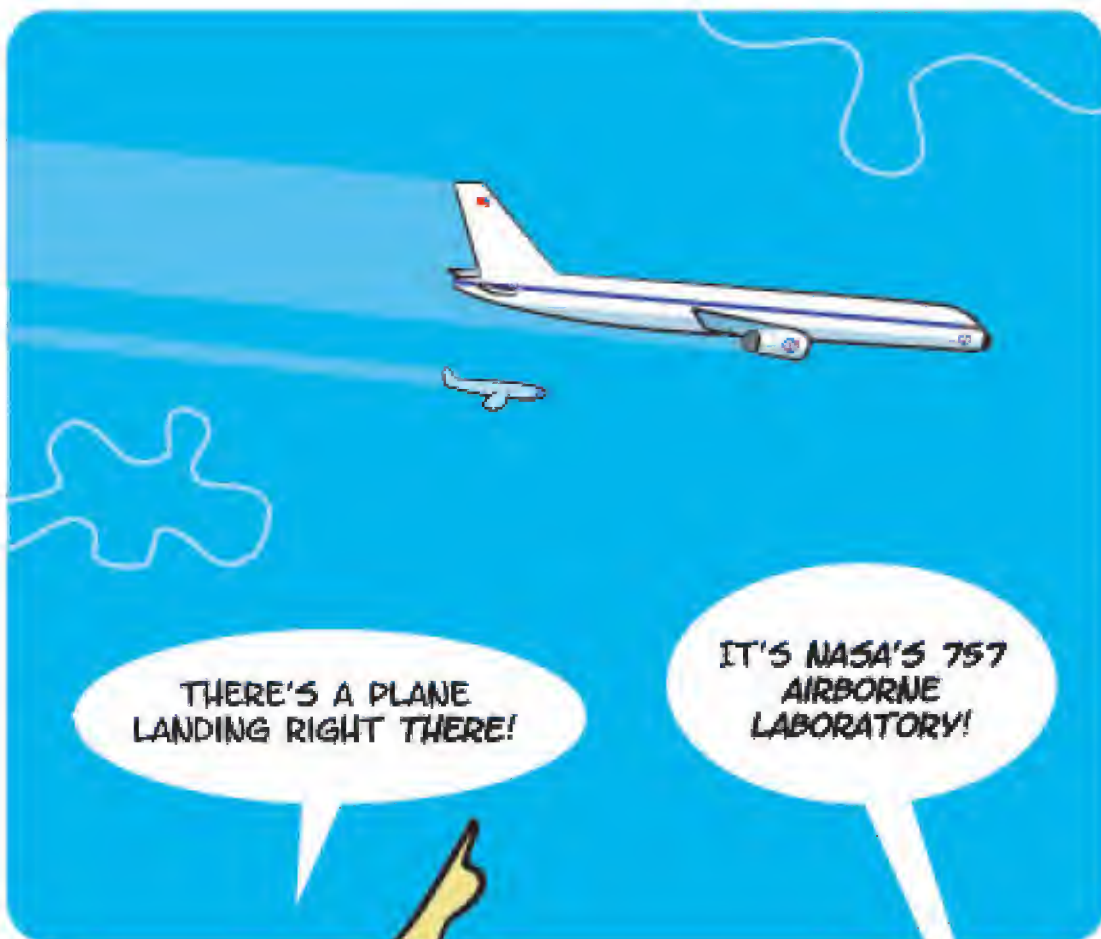
YEAH I GUESS SO.

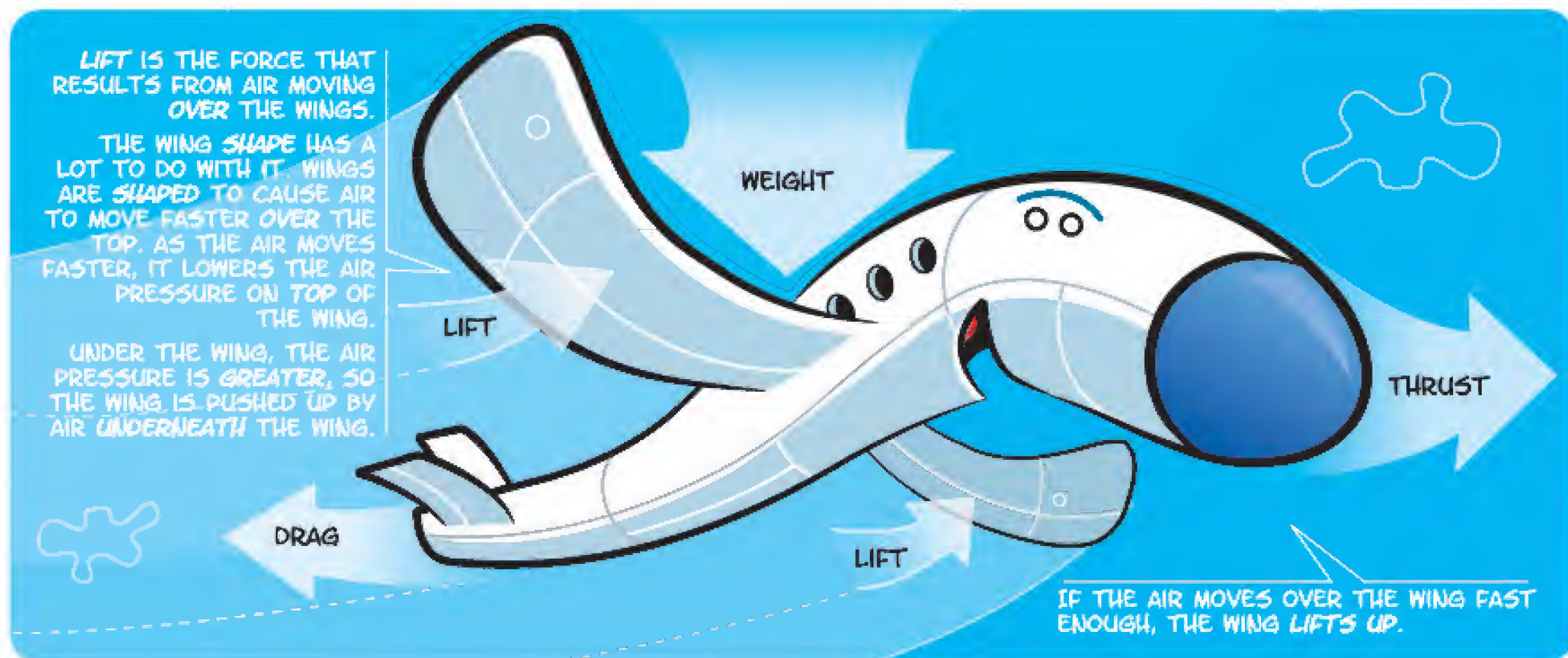
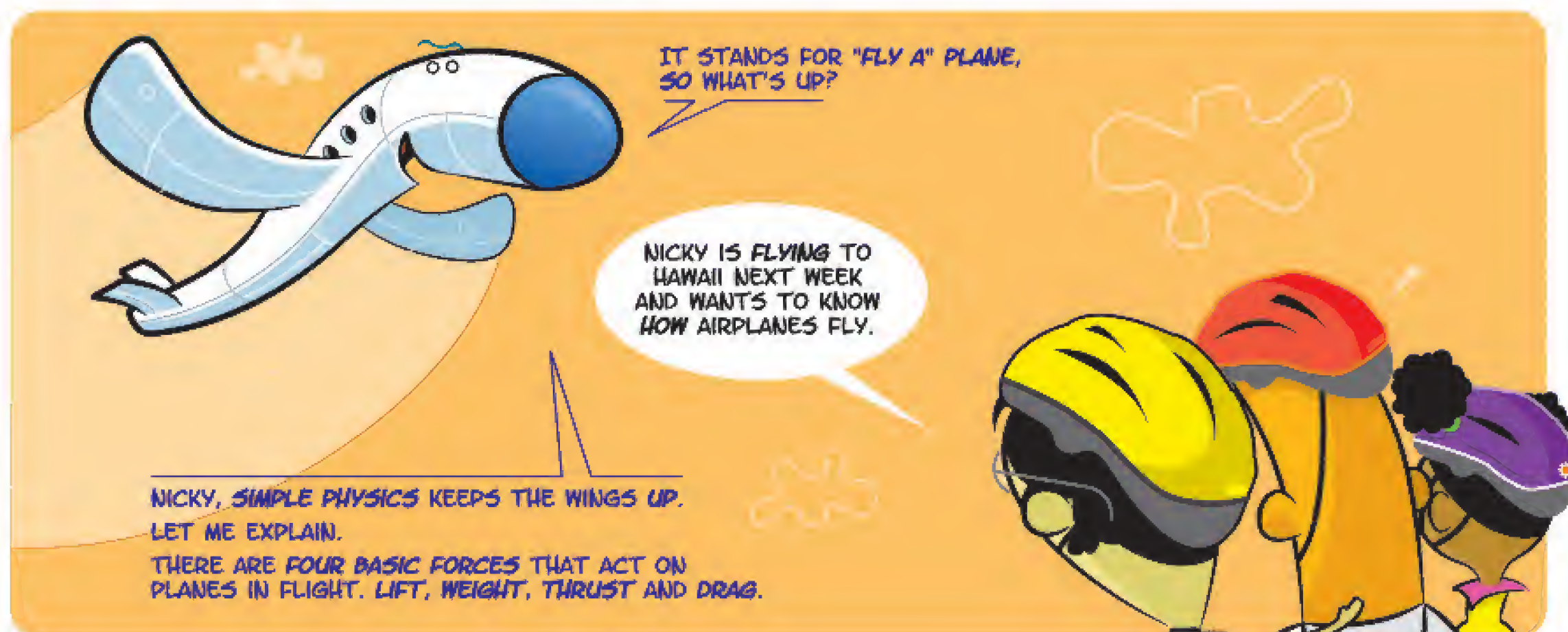
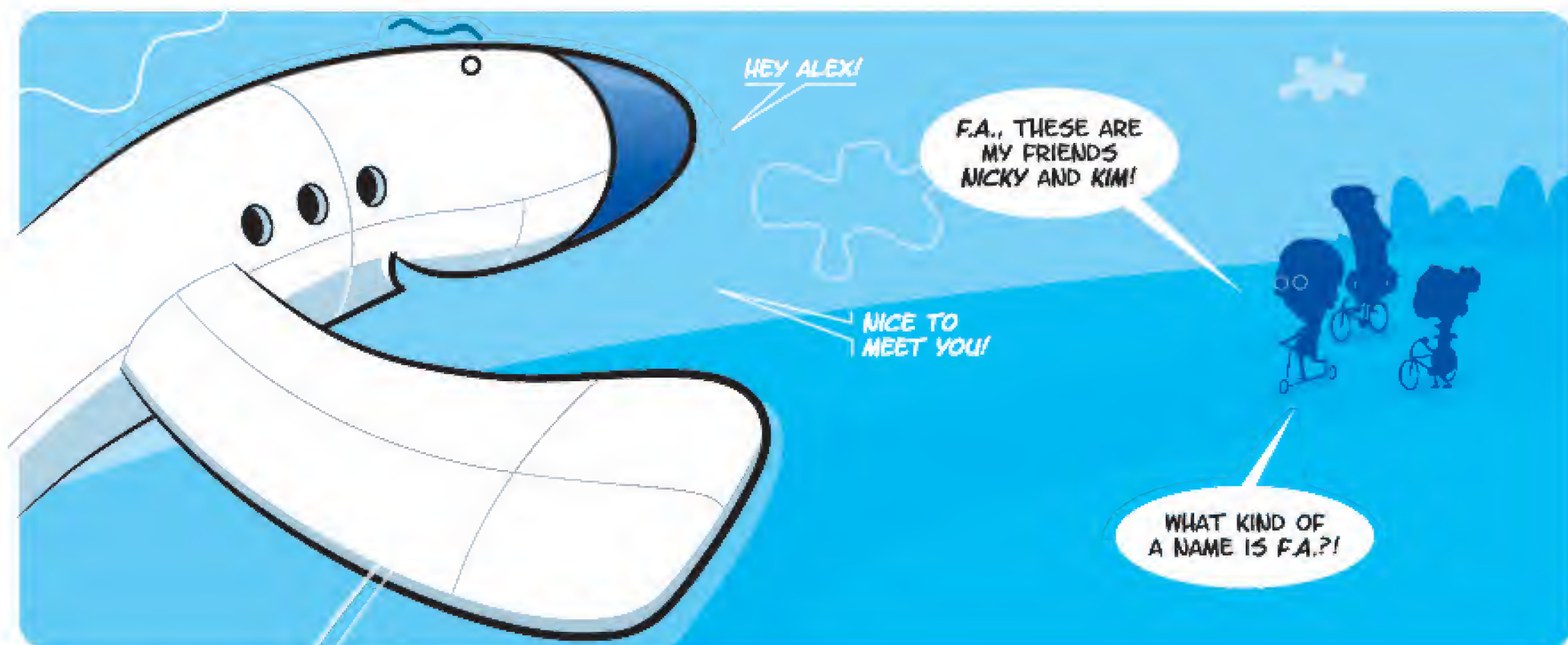
NICKY, WHY THE LONG FACE?





SHORTLY...





NICKY,
HAVE YOU EVER HELD YOUR
HAND OUT OF A CAR WINDOW
ON A TRIP?

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW YOUR
HAND LIFTED UP AS THE AIR
MOVED PAST IT? THAT IS
SIMILAR TO THE FORCE THAT
KEEPS THE WINGS UP--LIFT.



I GET IT!
CAN YOU EXPLAIN
THE OTHER
FORCES F.A.?

SURE, BUT HOW ABOUT WE
SEE SOME OF THE THINGS
THAT NASA LANGLEY DOES
WITH AIRPLANES FIRST?



OK, THAT WOULD
BE GREAT!



HERE AT NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER
WE'VE BEEN STUDYING AIRPLANES AND
HOW THEY FLY FOR A LOOOONG TIME.

HOW LONG?

SINCE 1917, BUT DO
YOU KNOW WHEN
THE FIRST POWERED
FLIGHT TOOK PLACE?

IN 1903, THE
WRIGHT BROTHERS FLEW
FOR THE FIRST TIME.



RIGHT! THE FIRST RECORDED
POWERED FLIGHT LASTED ONLY
12 SECONDS. AMERICANS HAVE
BEEN FLYING EVER SINCE!



BUT IT WASN'T UNTIL
WORLD WAR I THAT AVIATION
REALLY "TOOK OFF!"

HOW
COME?



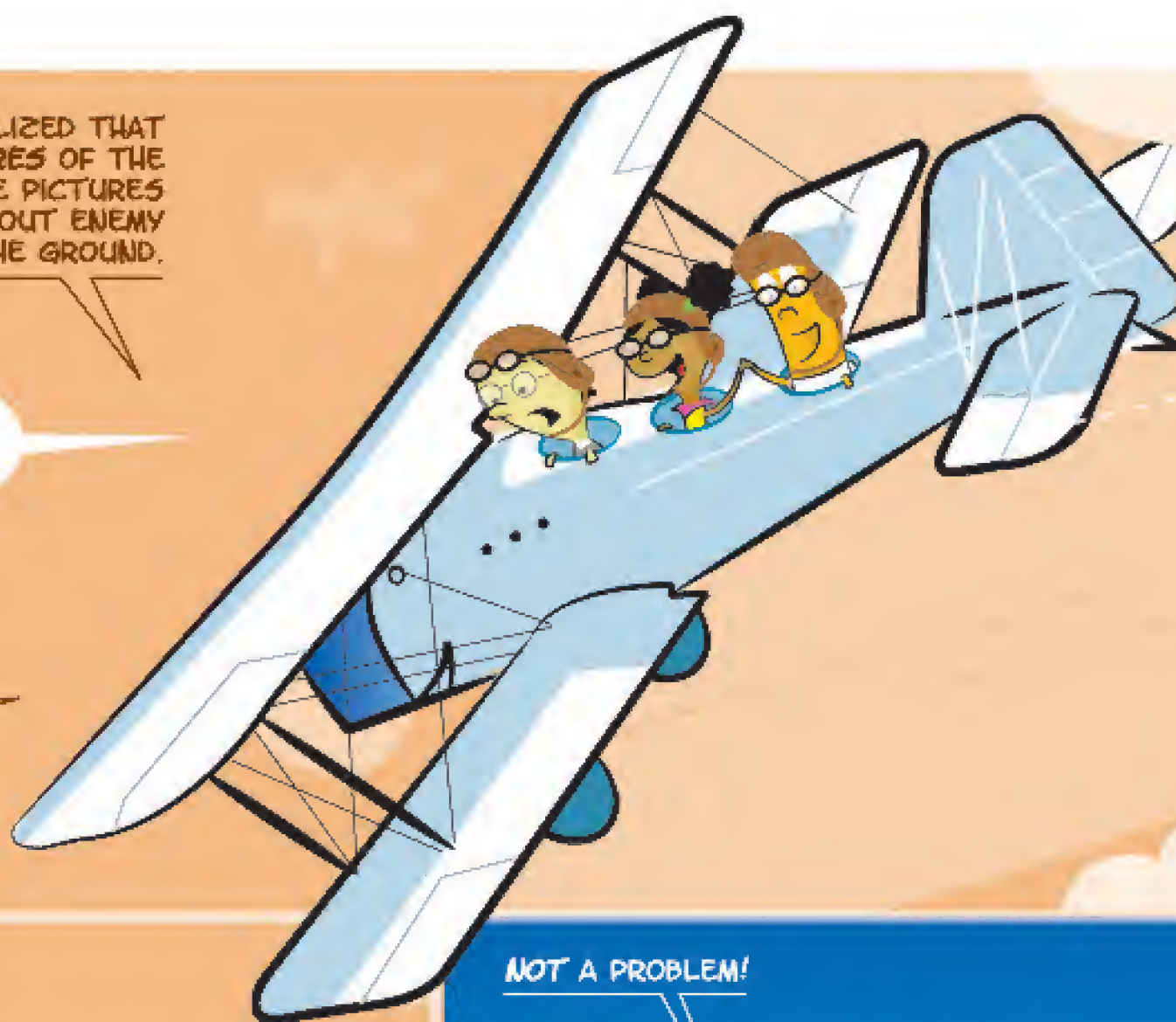
HOP IN AND I'LL
SHOW YOU!

DURING WORLD WAR I PEOPLE REALIZED THAT YOU COULD TAKE PICTURES OF THE BATTLEFIELD FROM THE AIR. THESE PICTURES GAVE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ENEMY POSITIONS TO SOLDIERS ON THE GROUND.

WOW, YOU CAN SEE EVERYTHING FROM UP HERE!

THAT WAS THE IDEA NICKY.

EACH SIDE TRIED TO KEEP THE OTHER FROM GETTING GOOD PICTURES. PILOTS STARTED THROWING THINGS AT EACH OTHER, AND EVENTUALLY THEY MOUNTED MACHINE GUNS TO THEIR PLANES.



LIKE THE RED BARON?

EXACTLY! WORLD WAR I SAW THE BIRTH OF AIR COMBAT.

I THINK THAT GUY SEES US!

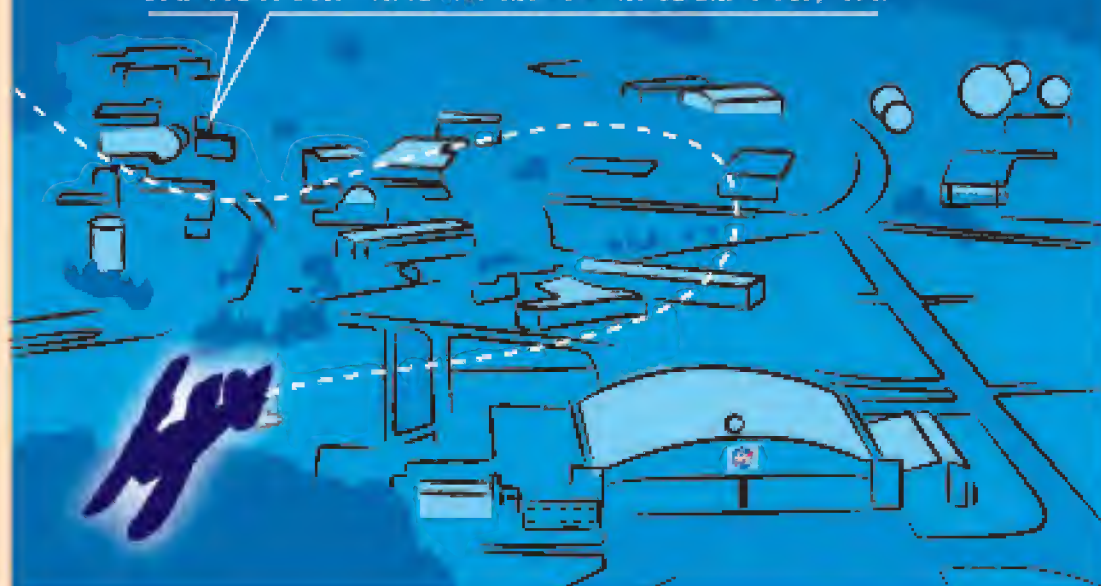
WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!



NOT A PROBLEM!

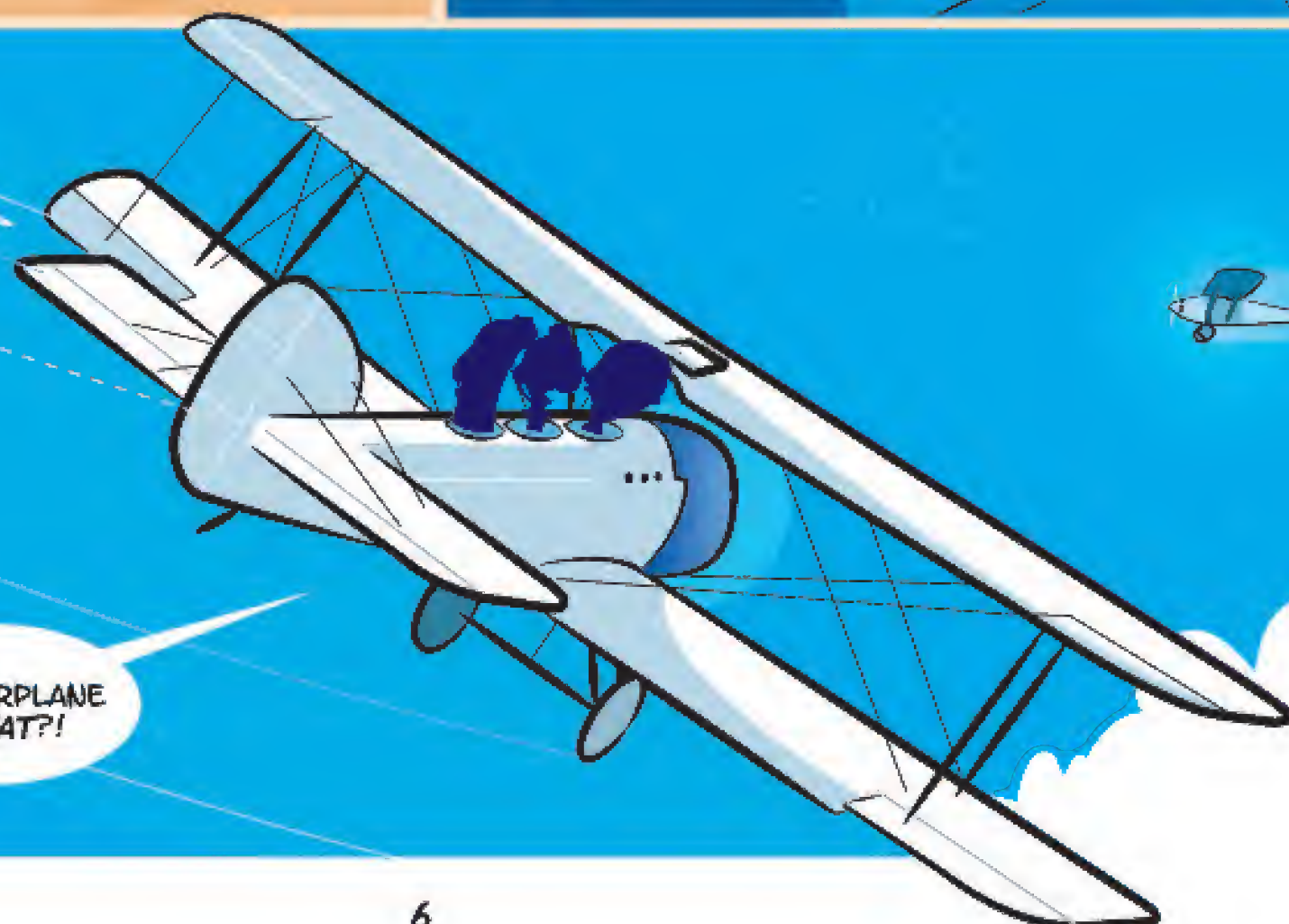
THE WAR PUSHED THE UNITED STATES TO STUDY AVIATION SERIOUSLY, THE NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR AERONAUTICS OR NACA WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1915.

TWO YEARS LATER, LANGLEY AERONAUTICAL LABORATORY WAS FOUNDED IN HAMPTON, VA.

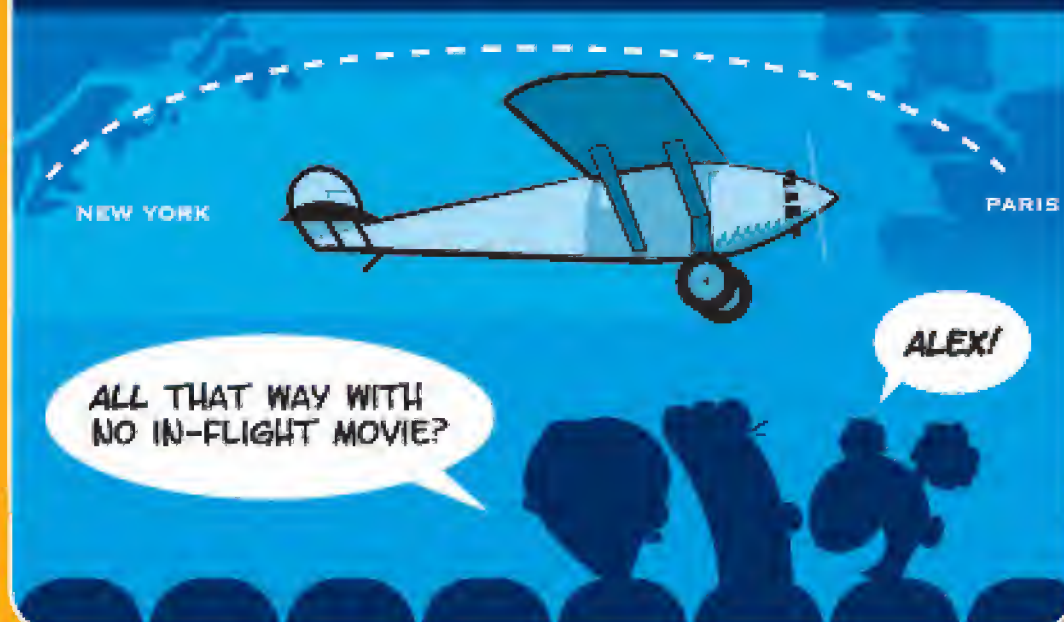


NACA IS WHAT EVENTUALLY BECAME THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, THE NASA THAT WE KNOW TODAY.

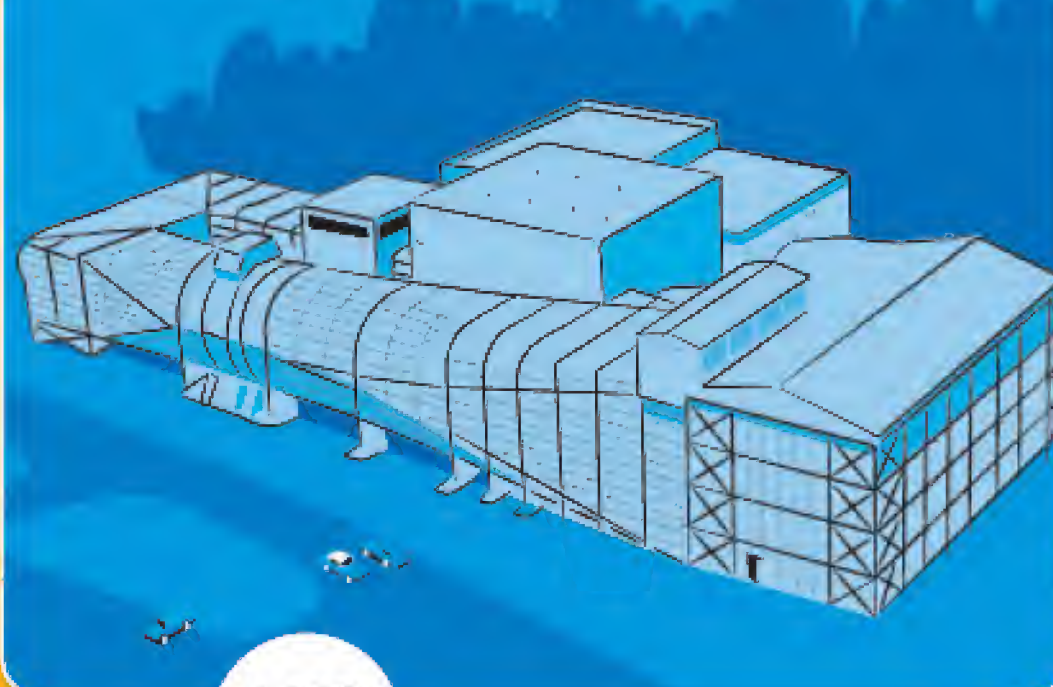
WHAT AIRPLANE IS THAT?!



THAT'S THE *SPIRIT OF SAINT LOUIS*. WE'RE USED TO FLYING ACROSS THE OCEANS, BUT CHARLES LINDBERGH WAS THE FIRST ONE TO FLY NON-STOP ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN 1927.

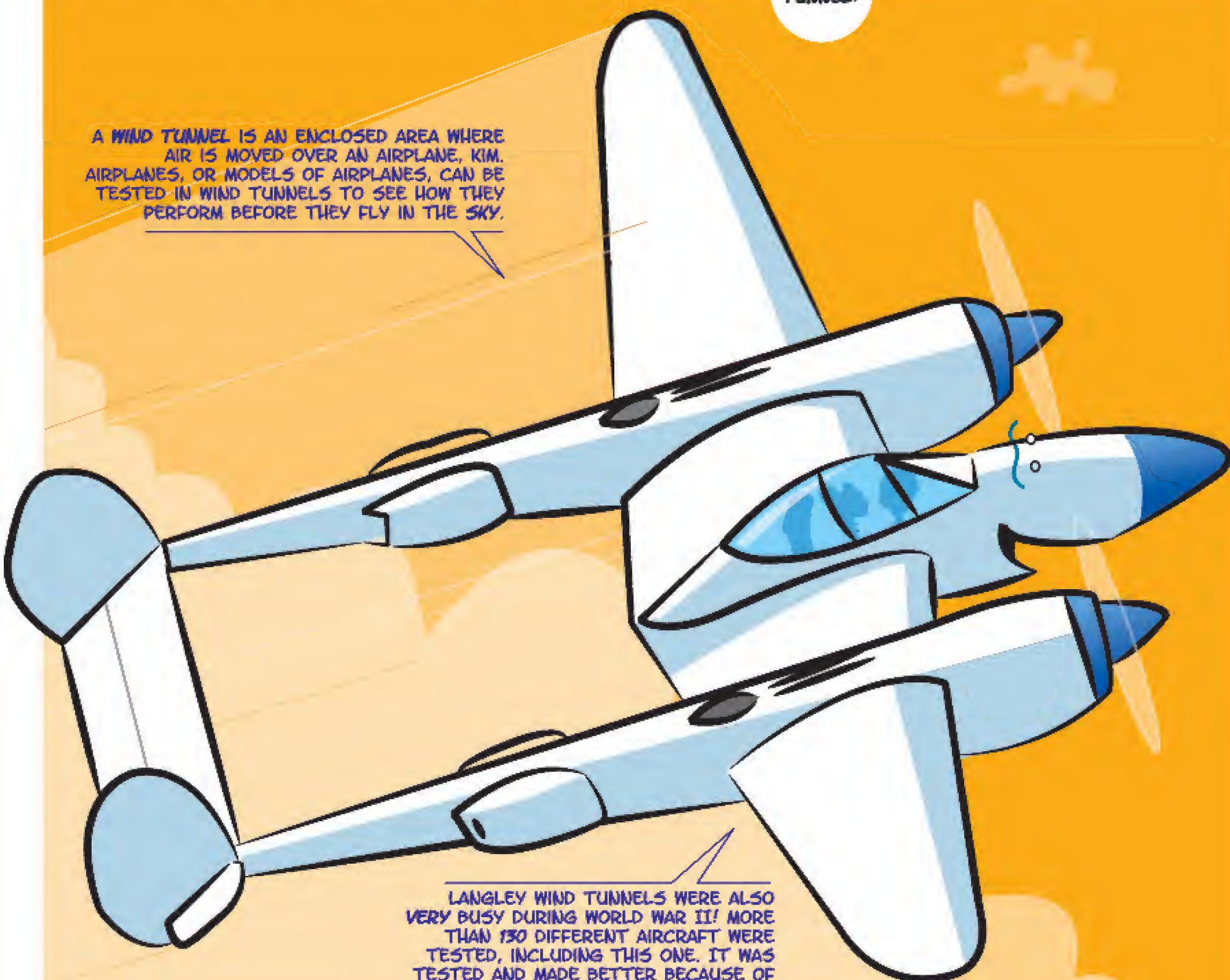


AFTER THE WAR, LANGLEY BUILT A WIND TUNNEL SO BIG YOU COULD PUT A FULL-SIZE PLANE IN IT. THERE ARE MORE THAN 20 WIND TUNNELS AT LANGLEY.



A WIND TUNNEL?

A WIND TUNNEL IS AN ENCLOSED AREA WHERE AIR IS MOVED OVER AN AIRPLANE, KIM. AIRPLANES, OR MODELS OF AIRPLANES, CAN BE TESTED IN WIND TUNNELS TO SEE HOW THEY PERFORM BEFORE THEY FLY IN THE SKY.



LANGLEY WIND TUNNELS WERE ALSO VERY BUSY DURING WORLD WAR II! MORE THAN 130 DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT WERE TESTED, INCLUDING THIS ONE. IT WAS TESTED AND MADE BETTER BECAUSE OF THE TESTS DONE AT LANGLEY.



WHAT ABOUT
AFTER THE WAR?

PEOPLE WANTED TO GO FASTER, BUT THEY
THOUGHT PLANES COULD NEVER GO AS FAST AS
THE *SPEED OF SOUND*. IN 1947, A MILITARY TEST
PILOT NAMED *CHUCK YEAGER* FLEW THE ROCKET-
POWERED X-1 PLANE FASTER THAN SOUND!

NACA ENGINEERS HELPED TO
DESIGN THE X-1.

FASTER THAN SOUND!
THAT DOESN'T SOUND
GOOD TO ME.



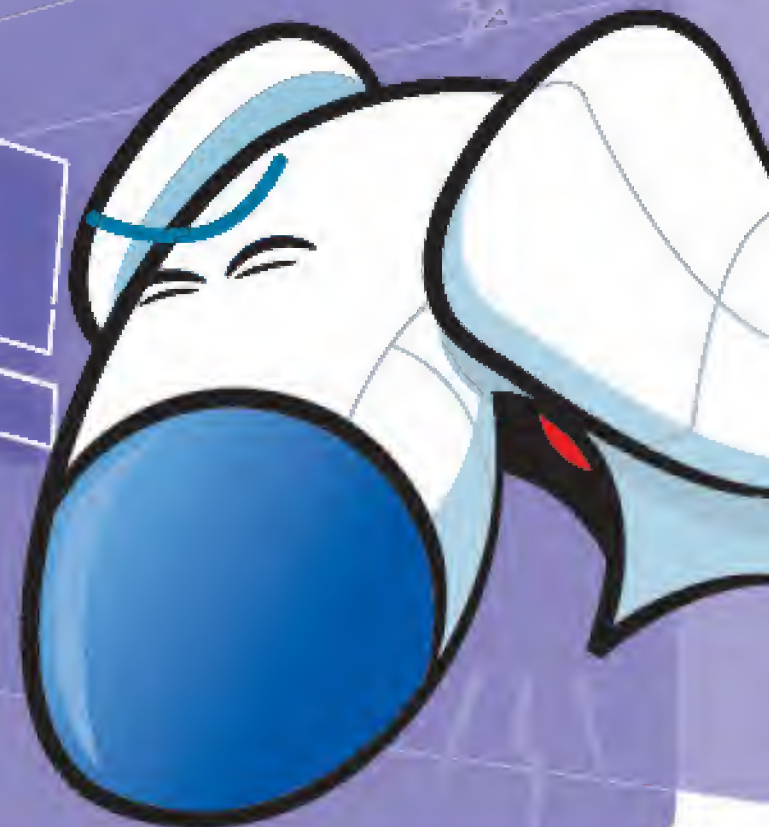
RELAX NICKY! THE PLANE
THAT YOU WILL FLY IN TO
HAWAII WON'T GO THAT FAST,
WILL IT F.A.?



RIGHT ALEX! BUT SOME MILITARY PLANES
GO FASTER THAN SOUND.

WHEN A PLANE GOES FASTER THAN
SOUND, IT MAKES A LOUD NOISE CALLED
A *SONIC BOOM*. PEOPLE ON THE GROUND
DON'T LIKE TO HEAR THAT

BOOM!



THE LOUD NOISE CAN BREAK WINDOWS
AND HURT PEOPLE'S EARS, SO MOST
AIRLINERS DON'T GO THAT FAST!



THERE WAS A *WHOLE* SERIES OF
X PLANES, NICKY. TEST PILOTS
FLEW *HIGHER* AND *FASTER* THAN
EVER BEFORE.
KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

SPUTNIK!

RIGHT!

YOU'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONE WHO
KNOWS STUFF, ALEX

AND THAT'S WHEN
NACA BECAME NASA, OR THE
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION.

SO WHO STUDIES
AIRPLANES NOW, F.A.?

THE SOVIET UNION LAUNCHED
THE FIRST SPACE SATELLITE,
SPUTNIK, IN 1957.

RIGHT AGAIN KIM.
LANGLEY WAS ONE OF THE
PLACES STUDYING SPACE FLIGHT;
IT HELPED TRAIN ASTRONAUTS
THAT LANDED ON THE MOON.

NASA STILL DOES A LOT OF WORK
ON AIRPLANES, ALEX, ESPECIALLY
AT LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER.

NASA ENGINEERS ARE WORKING
TO MAKE PLANES SAFER,
STRONGER, QUIETER, FASTER,
AND EASIER TO USE.

F.A.,
DO YOU THINK THAT
SOMEDAY WE MIGHT
FLY AIRPLANES?

MAYBE YOU WILL, KIM.
ONE OF NASA'S GOALS IS TO MAKE FLYING A
SMALL PLANE EASIER. SOME PEOPLE ARE
WORKING ON COCKPIT SYSTEMS THAT LOOK
LIKE VIDEO GAMES.

NASA IS WORKING TO MAKE SMALL PLANES
SAFER AND LESS DEPENDENT ON AIRPORTS.

LOOK KIDS. SEE THE SMALL
RED AIRCRAFT OVERHEAD?

WOW!
WHAT'S THAT?!

IT'S CALLED A PERSONAL
AIR VEHICLE. NASA HAS
BEGUN TO STUDY THESE
KINDS OF FUTURE AIRCRAFT.

MAN, I HAVE GOT TO
HAVE ONE OF THOSE!

COOL!

I COULD FLY ALL OVER
THE PLACE WITH THAT!

MAYBE ONE DAY ALEX, BUT
MORE INCREDIBLE THAN THAT,
NASA IS DESIGNING A PLANE
THAT WILL FLY ON MARS!

YOU'RE JOKING,
RIGHT?

NOPE.
NASA IS DESIGNING A
PLANE THAT CAN BE
PACKED INTO A
SPACESHIP, SENT TO
MARS, AND FLY THROUGH
THE THIN ATMOSPHERE
ON THE RED PLANET.

AMAZING!

I NEVER REALIZED
THERE WAS SO MUCH
GOING ON AT NASA.

WHAT ELSE IS
NASA DOING WITH
PLANES F.A.?

NASA ENGINEERS ARE STUDYING A
BLENDED WING BODY AIRCRAFT. IT'S
REALLY ONE BIG WING THAT CAN
CARRY A LOT OF PEOPLE AND CARGO,
BUT USES LESS FUEL AND IS
QUIETER THAN TODAY'S AIRLINERS.

OTHER ENGINEERS ARE
STUDYING A PLANE THAT
WILL GO TEN TIMES THE
SPEED OF SOUND. IT'S
CALLED THE HYPER-X.

TEN TIMES THE
SPEED OF
SOUND? THAT'S
HYPER-FAST!

THAT'S ABOUT 7,000
MILES PER HOUR! WOW!

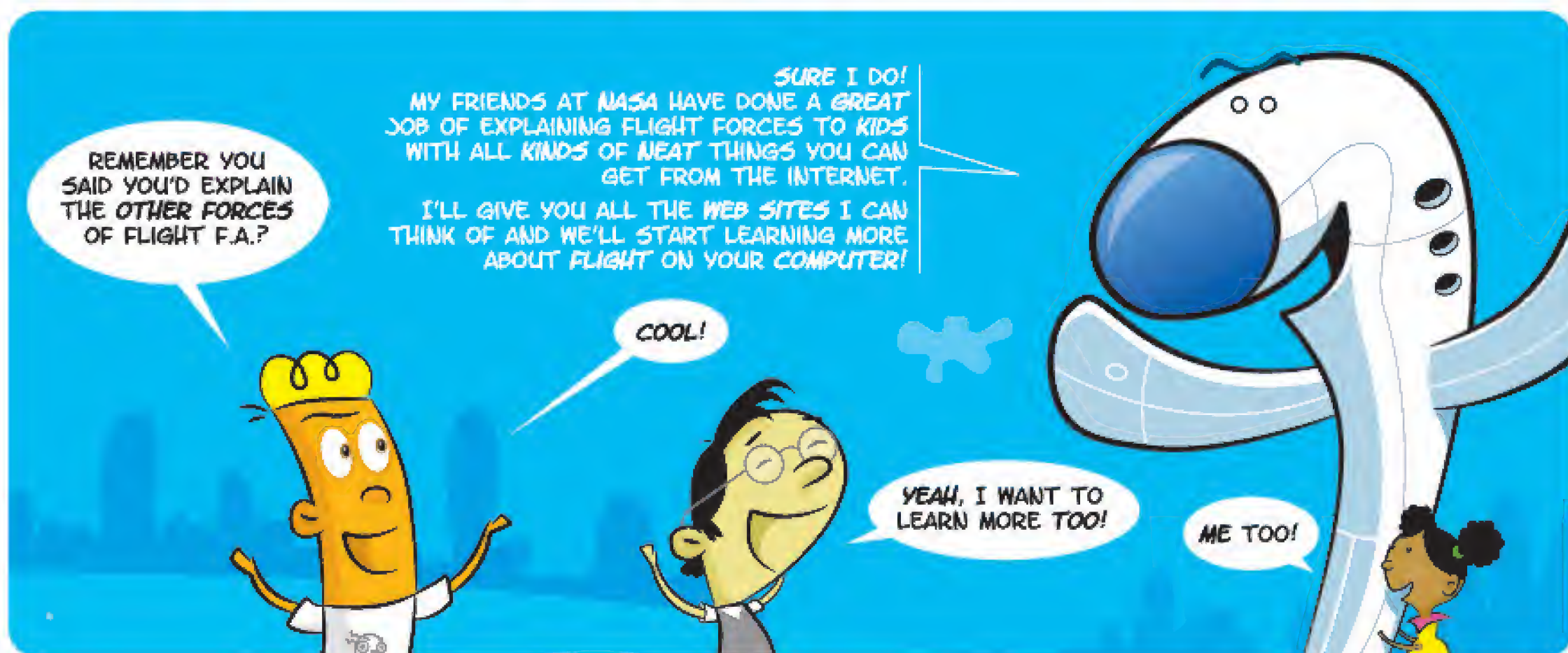
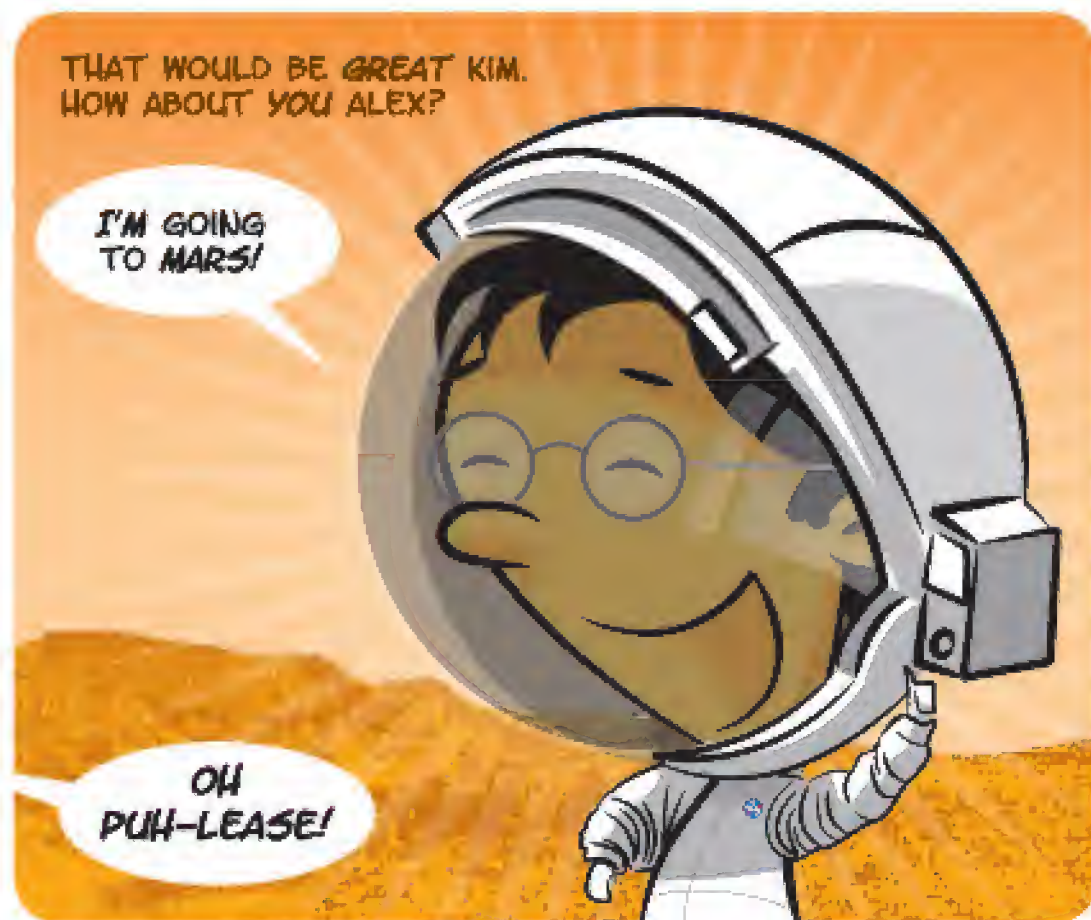
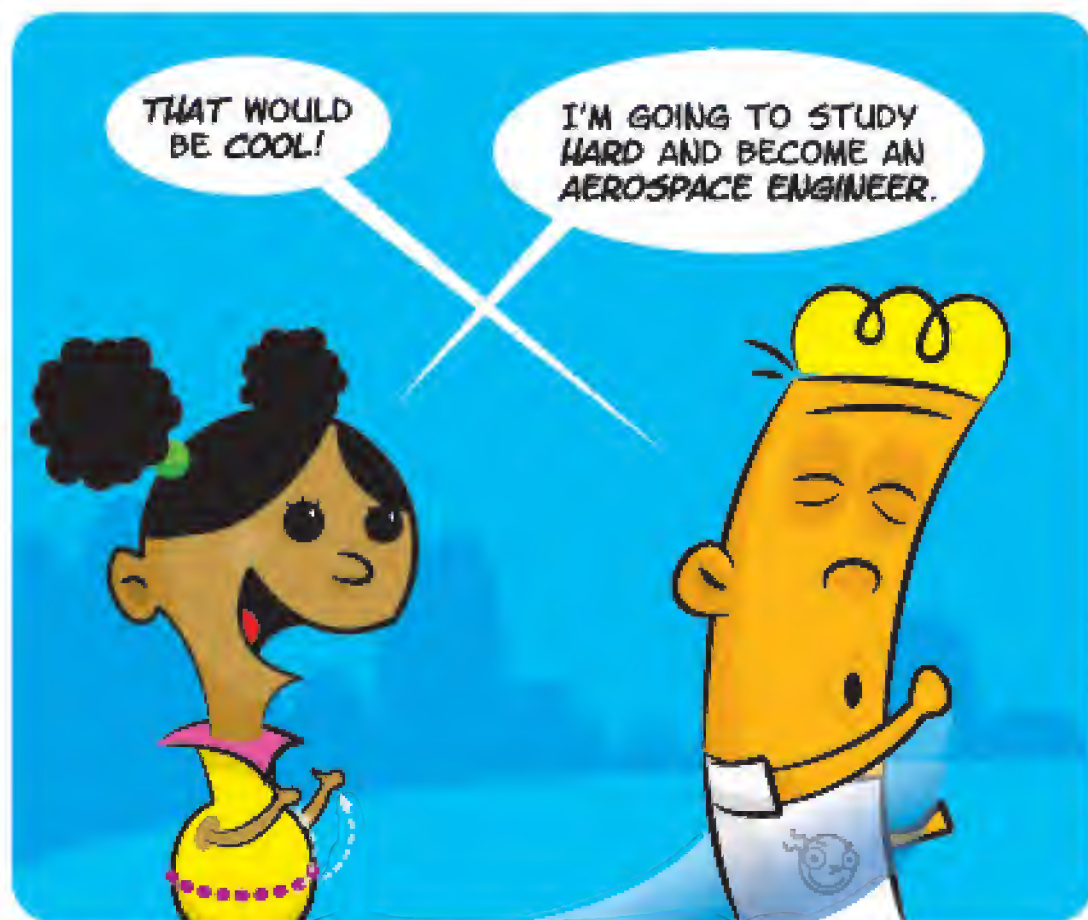
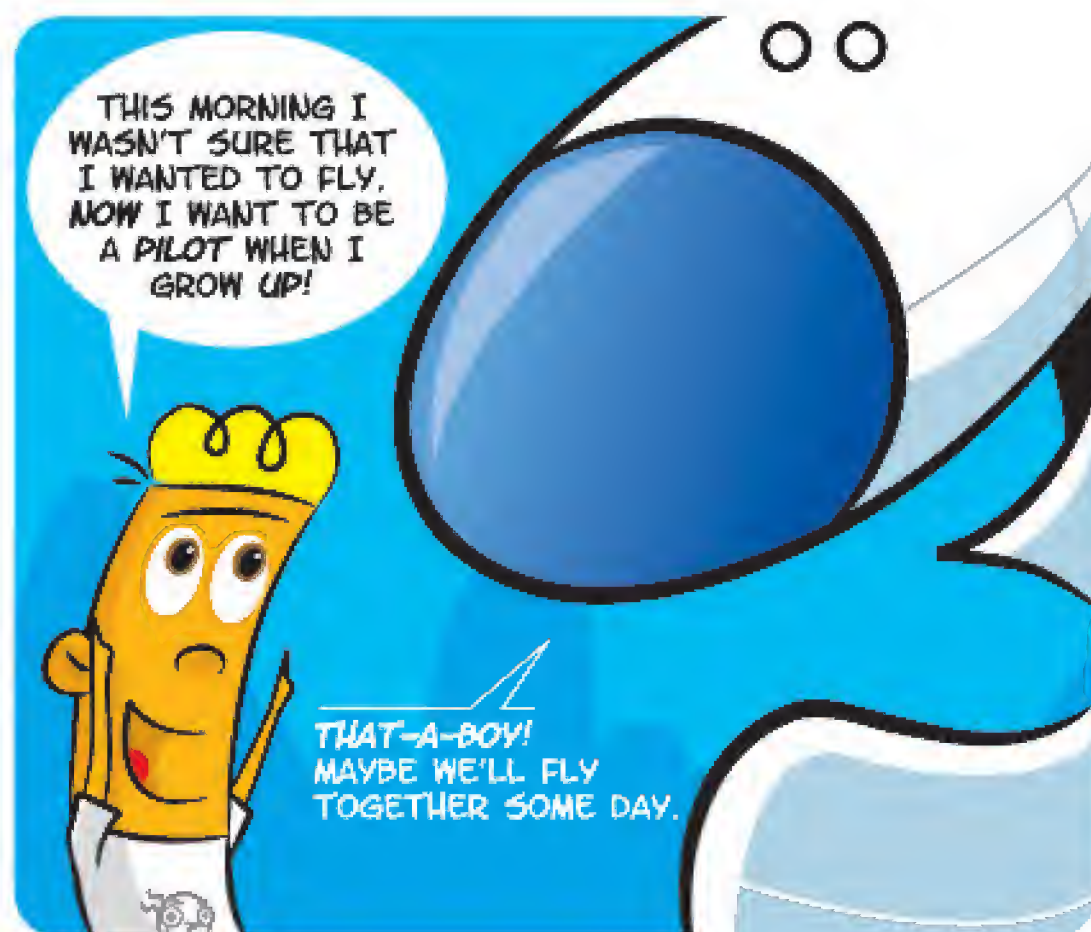
NASA DEVELOPED TECHNOLOGIES
THAT INDUSTRY USED FOR THE NEW
U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT CALLED THE
JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER.
THERE IT IS NOW!

NASA HELPS MAKE AMERICA'S
MILITARY PLANES SAFER, STRONGER,
FASTER, AND MORE RELIABLE.
ALMOST EVERY U.S. MILITARY PLANE
HAS BEEN TESTED AT NASA LANGLEY.

AWESOME!

COOL!

WOW!



NASA has many web sites that can help you to learn more about flight. Some are listed below and others can be found by doing a search on the web for the topic that interests you most!

Resources for Students and Educators of Grades K -12

Aerospace Technology Education Programs

<http://www.aero-space.nasa.gov/edu/2aero.html>

Aerospace Education Services Program (AESP)

<http://www.okstate.edu/aesp/AESP.html>

NASA Explorer Schools

<http://www.nsta.org/explorerschools>

NASA Student Involvement Program (NSIP)

<http://www.nsip.net>

NASA Explores

<http://NASAexplores.com>

NASA Educator Resource Network

<http://spacelink.nasa.gov/ercn/>

NASA Revolutionary Vehicles Student Competition

<http://avst.larc.nasa.gov/competition.html>

Other web sites that may interest all age groups

The NASA Home Page Address

<http://www.nasa.gov>

NASA's Education Home Page

<http://education.nasa.gov>

NASA Langley Research Center

<http://www.larc.nasa.gov>

